

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00177 01 OF 02 192326Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----069597 192332Z /65
O 192110Z JAN 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0993

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HAVANA 0177

EXDIS

PASS COMMANDANT U.S. COAST GUARD WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, CU, US
SUBJECT: COAST GUARD EXCHANGE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT MINUTE OF JANUARY 16 - 19
TALKS BETWEEN CUBAN BORDER GUARD TROOPS AND U.S. COAST
GUARD. CHAIRMAN OF US COAST GUARD DELEGATION SPECIFIED,
AND CUBAN COUNTERPART AGREED, THAT JOINT MINUTE REPRESENTS
RECORD OF MEETING AND IS NOT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.
JOINT MINUTE WAS EXCHANGED BETWEEN PARTIES, BUT WAS
NEITHER INITIALED NOR SIGNED. BOTH CHAIRMAN AGREED THAT
JOINT MINUTE WOULD BE TREATED AS INTERNAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT.

2. BEGIN TITLE MINUTE OF TALKS HELD BETWEEN THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS
OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE U.S.
COAST GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA END TITLE.

3. BEGIN TEXT

IN HAVANA, ON JANUARY 16-19, 1978, TALKS WERE HELD
ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND POSSIBLE COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE
INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD
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OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO
AS THE "AGENCIES"). EACH SIDE PRESENTED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.

THE MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION WERE:

MAJOR AMADO VALDES GONZALEZ,
CHIEF OF STAFF, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF

BORDER GUARD TROOPS, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION

MAJOR MIGUEL BERMEJO LABRADA,
CHIEF OF THE NAVAL SECTION, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
BORDER GUARD TROOPS

CAPTAIN ARMANDO URRA CABRISAS,
CHIEF, INTELLIGENCE SECTION, DIRECTORATE GENERAL
OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS

FIRST LIEUTENANT RAUL GONZALEZ LOPEZ,
LEGAL ADVISOR, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF BORDER
GUARD TROOPS

BIENVENIDO GARCIA NEGRIN,
NORTH AMERICAN DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS

ARMANDO VALMANA BETANCOURT,
LEGAL DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

JUANITA VERA GARCIA
INTERPRETER

THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WERE:

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CAPTAIN LAWRENCE A. WHITE,
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE DIVISION COAST GUARD
HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C., CHAIRMAN OF THE
DELEGATION

W. KENNEDY CROMWELL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDANT
OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

FRANKLIN K. WILLIS,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CAPTAIN ROBERT L. COOK,
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE BRANCH, SEVENTH COAST
GUARD DISTRICT, MIAMI, FLORIDA

COMMANDER FRANK W. OLSON,
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE BRANCH, U.S. COAST
GUARD ATLANTIC AREA, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

COMMANDER JOHN C. IKENS,

CHIEF, INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BRANCH,
SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT, MIAMI, FLORIDA

ALBERT J. MCCULLOUGH,
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE LIAISON STAFF,
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

JON D. GLASSMAN,
FIRST SECRETARY, UNITED STATES INTERESTS SECTION,
HAVANA

LT. COMMANDER EARL A. BLANTON,
STAFF, MARITIME LAWS AND TREATIES BRANCH,
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, WASHDC
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STEPHANIE R. VAN REIGERSBERG,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERPRETER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED US COAST GUARD.

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ACTION SS-25

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-----069605 192333Z /62

O 192110Z JAN 78
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HAVANA 0177

EXDIS

PASS COMMANDANT U.S. COAST GUARD WASHDC

THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED:

1. GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

OF THE TWO AGENCIES.

2. CLARIFICATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES.

3. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON AND EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN:

--SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN GENERAL;
--LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES CONCERNING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ACTS OF THREAT AND/OR OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION.

4. DISCUSSION OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY EACH SIDE IN CASES OF TEMPORARY DETENTION OR OF FORCE MAJEURE ARRIVALS BY SHIPS OF THE OTHER SIDE.

AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF THE ITEMS,
THE DELEGATIONS AGREED TO WORK TO ENHANCE POSSIBLE COOPERATION AS INDICATED BELOW:

A) TO COOPERATE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.
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B) TO ENHANCE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION, TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ACTS OF THREAT AND/OR OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION.

C) TO ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING AS IMMEDIATE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE PROPER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION:

--FOR EMERGENCIES: THE AFTN NETWORK AND THE CLT COASTAL NETWORK;
--FOR LESS URGENT CASES: THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE INTERESTS SECTIONS.

IN BOTH CASES INFORMATION WILL BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AND TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD REGARDING CASES INVOLVING AIRCRAFT WILL BE SENT TO THE ICAO RCC IN HAVANA.

D) EACH SIDE WILL WORK ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS PLANS TO BE ANALYZED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE EXPERTS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES, INCLUDING ALL PRACTICAL MODES: VOICE, CONTINUOUS WAVES (MORSE SIGNALS), TELETYPE.

E) THE TWO AGENCIES WILL IN PRINCIPLE CONSIDER COOPERATION CONCERNING THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ACTS OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF COORDINATING THEIR ACTIVITIES IN SPECIFIC CASES WHEN BOTH SIDES CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL

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IT BENEFICIAL TO DO SO.

F) BY WAY OF RECIPROCITY FOR THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS REGARDING PROCEDURES FOR STOPPING AND BOARDING VESSELS, THE CUBAN SIDE WILL FURNISH SIMILAR INFORMATION TO THE U.S. SIDE TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF PERSONS NAVIGATING IN THE AREA.

G) THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS WILL SEND TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD INFORMATION REGARDING VESSELS INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING WHICH HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY CUBAN AUTHORITIES IN THE PAST SO THAT U.S. COAST GUARD RECORDS MAY BE UPDATED.

OTHERS MATTERS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED:

--THE U.S. DELEGATION EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN OBTAINING PERMISSION TO USE CUBAN AIR CORRIDORS IN CARRYING OUT SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS SOUTH OF THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA. THE CUBAN SIDE NOTED THE INTEREST EXPRESSED AND THE PROCESSING OF THE MATTER WAS LEFT PENDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

--THE U.S. SIDE EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO RETURN EIGHT SMALL BOATS IF THE CUBAN SIDE WISHED TO ACCEPT THIS PROCEDURE. IF NOT, IT ASKED PERMISSION TO DISPOSE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED BOATS. IN THAT CONNECTION THE CUBAN SIDE REQUESTED A LIST OF THOSE VESSELS INDICATING THEIR NAMES AND STATE OF REPAIR FOR PURPOSES OF PROPER IDENTIFICATION, AND, GENERALLY SPEAKING WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL.

BOTH AGENCIES CONSIDERED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE BENEFICIAL AND PROMOTED UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA REGARDING THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPECTIVE WORKING PROCEDURES. BOTH AGENCIES

BELIEVED FURTHER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION
WOULD BE USEFUL AND COULD BE DISCUSSED IN FUTURE
MEETINGS. END TEXT
GLASSMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED U.S. COAST GUARD.

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